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Bitter Honey: Recuperating the medical and scientific context of Bernard Mandeville (Paperback)

By Phillip Hilton

Peter Lang AG, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften, Switzerland, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. New edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. This is a bold, often provocative interpretation of a neglected classic on depression, originally written by the notorious Bernard Mandeville (1670-1733) for his patients. It makes the case that Mandeville's Treatise was a milestone of experimental literature that blended satire with science and used comedy for the relief of madness. The study recounts the culture of the Augustan virtuosi in fascinating detail: the atomic foundations of a forgotten neo-Epicurean theory for the human craving for luxury, Baconian `initiative literature (his ideal form of scientific literature), the danger of being driven mad by science. It also proposes that Mandeville may possibly have been influenced by Gnostic and Manichaeic thought. Readers who are familiar with The Fable of the Bees and Mandeville's reputation as a champion of the effects of egotism may be surprised by the account of Mandeville's bitter criticisms of the selfishness of his professional colleagues, a selfishness that left no public benefits to atone for private vice. As baroque as...



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Reviews

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